

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus for displaying a 3-dimensional scene, comprising:

(A) identifying means for identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

(B) display inhibiting means for inhibiting a display of the 3-dimensional object identified by said identifying means until a predetermined authenticating process is finished.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reproduction inhibiting means for inhibiting a reproduction of video/audio in the case where said 3-dimensional object whose display is inhibited by said display inhibiting means is accompanied with the video/audio.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising synchronizing means for, in the case where said 3-dimensional object whose display is inhibited by said display inhibiting means is accompanied with the video/audio, synchronizing the display of said 3-dimensional object with the reproduction of said video/audio when the inhibition of the display by said

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display inhibiting means is cancelled.

4. An image processing apparatus for displaying a 3-dimensional scene, comprising:

5 (A) identifying means for identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

10 (B) classifying means for classifying the 3-dimensional object identified by said identifying means to a first group and classifying the other 3-dimensional objects to a second group; and

15 (C) display control means for controlling the display of said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of the group classified by said classifying means.

20 5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said classifying means further classifies the 3-dimensional object identified by said identifying means and video/audio associated with said 3-dimensional object to the first group and classifies the other 3-dimensional objects and video/audio associated with said other 3-dimensional objects to the second group.

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6. An image processing apparatus comprising:

(A) receiving means for receiving scene data

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describing a 3-dimensional scene, media data associated with said scene data, and copyright-protected data;

(B) separating means for separating all of the data received by said receiving means;

5 (C) access control means for controlling accesses to the scene data and the media data separated by said separating means on the basis of the copyright-protected data separated by said separating means;

(D) media decoding means for decoding the media data separated by said separating means;

10 (E) scene decoding means for forming copyright-protected scene data and copyright-unprotected scene data from the scene data separated by said separating means on the basis of the copyright-protected data separated by said separating means; and

15 (F) rendering means for rendering the 3-dimensional scene on the basis of the media data decoded by said media decoding means and the copyright-protected scene data and the copyright-unprotected scene data formed by said scene decoding means.

20 7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said copyright-protected scene data describes a scene which is rendered after authentication, and said copyright-unprotected scene data describes a scene which is rendered irrespective of the authentication.

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(A) an identifying step of identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data

describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

(B) a display inhibiting step of inhibiting a display of the 3-dimensional object identified in said identifying step until a predetermined authenticating process is finished.

12. A method according to claim 11, further comprising a reproduction inhibiting step of inhibiting a reproduction of video/audio in the case where said 3-dimensional object whose display is inhibited in said display inhibiting step is accompanied with the video/audio.

13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising a synchronizing step of, in the case where said 3-dimensional object whose display is inhibited in said display inhibiting step is accompanied with the video/audio, synchronizing the display of said 3-dimensional object with the reproduction of said video/audio when the inhibition of the display in said display inhibiting step is cancelled.

14. An image processing method of displaying a 3-dimensional scene, comprising:

(A) an identifying step of identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing

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said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

(B) a classifying step of classifying the 3-dimensional object identified in said identifying step to a first group and classifying the other 3-dimensional objects to a second group; and

(C) a display control step of controlling the display of said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of the group classified in said classifying step.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein in said classifying step, the 3-dimensional object identified in said identifying step and video/audio associated with said 3-dimensional object are classified to the first group, and the other 3-dimensional objects and video/audio associated with said other 3-dimensional objects are classified to the second group.

16. An image processing method comprising:

(A) a receiving step of receiving scene data describing a 3-dimensional scene, media data associated with said scene data, and copyright-protected data;

(B) a separating step of separating all of the data received in said receiving step;

(C) an access control step of controlling accesses to the scene data and the media data separated in said separating step on the basis of the copyright-protected

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19. An image processing method comprising:

(A) a detecting step of detecting a copyright protection node from a language describing a 3-dimensional scene;

(B) an identifying step of identifying a 3-dimensional object designated by the copyright protection node detected in said detecting step; and

(C) a display inhibiting step of inhibiting a display of the 3-dimensional object identified in said identifying step until a predetermined authenticating process is finished.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein said language is a VRML.

21. An image processing system comprising a transmitting apparatus and a receiving apparatus, wherein

(A) said transmitting apparatus includes transmitting means for transmitting scene data describing a 3-dimensional scene, media data associated with said scene data, and copyright-protected data, and

(B) said receiving apparatus includes: receiving means for receiving the scene data describing the 3-dimensional scene, the media data associated with said scene data, and the copyright-protected data which were transmitted from said transmitting apparatus;

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separating means for separating all of the data received by said receiving means;

access control means for controlling accesses to the scene data and the media data separated by said

5 separating means on the basis of the copyright-

protected data separated by said separating means;

media decoding means for decoding the media data separated by said separating means;

scene decoding means for forming copyright-
10 protected scene data and copyright-unprotected scene data from the scene data separated by said separating means on the basis of the copyright-protected data separated by said separating means; and

rendering means for rendering the 3-dimensional
15 scene on the basis of the media data decoded by said media decoding means and the copyright-protected scene data and the copyright-unprotected scene data formed by said scene decoding means.

20 22. A storage medium which stores a computer program, said computer program comprising:

(A) an identifying module for identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing a
25 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

(B) a display inhibiting module for inhibiting a

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